

WAUKESHA COUNTY

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

August 12, 2009

In Attendance:

Sergeant Nate Clarke; Wisconsin State Patrol
Ms. Mitzi Dobersek; Wisconsin DOT Highway Engineering Representative
Michael Grulke; Highway Commissioner Representative
Lieutenant Larry LaFavor; Chairman, Traffic Safety Coordinator
Ms. Andrea Loeffelholz; DOT Bureau of Transportation Safety
Sergeant Mark Tushaus; City of Brookfield Police Department

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Traffic Safety Commission Chairman Lieutenant Larry LaFavor at 2:15 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Sergeant Mark Tushaus, of the City of Brookfield Police Department, made a motion to approve the minutes, and Sergeant Nate Clarke, of the Wisconsin State Patrol, seconded the motion. The minutes were then approved.

TRAFFIC SAFETY LEGISLATION REPORT

Ms. Andrea Loeffelholz stated that the 2010 grants have been announced. She also stated the dates for the Governor's Conference in Appleton, Wisconsin, will be August 19 and 20.

Weekly Fatality Report – Monday, August 10, 2009

We are still below the five-year average for accidents and fatalities. There were 277 accidents reported year-to-date and 309 fatalities. The five-year average for accidents was 384 with fatalities being 425.

Wisconsin Department Of Transportation - Drivers and Vehicles

This included statistics of fatalities by county as of July 20, 2009. Waukesha County reported 12 in year-to-date statistics.

Snowmobile Fatalities in Wisconsin

Department Of Transportation statistics were included in a chart showing snowmobile fatalities in Wisconsin, and a chart showing warden enforcement effort and snowmobile fatalities. For 2008 – 2009 there have been 23 snowmobile fatalities in Wisconsin.

TRAFFIC SAFETY LEGISLATION REPORT CONTINUED

Final Year-End 2008 Crash Statistics

A Wisconsin Department Of Transportation traffic accident database showed crash statistics from 1998 through 2008 which included: Total persons killed, alcohol-related crashes, speed-related crashes, pedestrian crashes, bicycle crashes, motorcycle crashes, train crashes, construction zone crashes, school bus crashes, deer crashes, large truck crashes, urban city street crashes, etc..

Traffic Safety Facts

An article from the National Center for Statistics and Analysis (NCSA) states the increase in lives saved, injuries prevented, and cost savings if seat belt use rose to at least 90 percent in all states.

An article from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) states that they estimate helmets saved 1,784 motorcyclists' lives in 2007, and that 800 more could have been saved if all motorcyclists had worn helmets. Per vehicle mile traveled, motorcyclists are about 35 times more likely than passenger car occupants to die in a traffic crash.

New Analysis Provides Roadmap for Teen Driving Laws

States have made progress; some laws need strengthening. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) released a new analysis of teen driving laws and their effectiveness at reducing crashes. IIHS concludes that states that have enacted strong graduated driver licensing (GDL) laws experience a reduction in fatal crashes and insurance losses for collision.

Insurance Institute for Highway Safety – Status Report

When parents are watching, their teenage children drive differently than when they're alone or with friends. Unsupervised teens take more risks behind the wheel. A new study indicates that equipping the cars teens drive with, in-vehicle monitoring devices can help reduce these risks by giving feedback about driving behavior to both teenagers and their parents.

COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS

- City of Brookfield
Sergeant Mark Tushaus, from the City of Brookfield Police Department, stated Calhoun Road between Bluemound and Greenfield will be opening Friday, 08-14-09, at noon.

In July during the Speed Wave, TMJ Channel 4 Speedbusters reported to Capitol Drive between Pilgrim and Calhoun Road.

Sergeant Mark Tushaus presented a memorandum to Michael Grulke, Highway Commissioner Representative, reference street signs and posts down on STH 190/Capitol Drive, and asking that the signs and posts be fixed as soon as possible. A total of 12 signs or posts were reported as damaged or down, mainly from winter plowing operations.

HIGH CRASH LOCATIONS / FATALS

- Chairman Larry LaFavor reported that the Waukesha Sheriff's Department had five fatalities, as follows:

- **Date of Accident: 05-14-09**

Location: CTHG, 60 feet east of Morris Road, Town of Genesee

A 1998 Subaru Legacy traveling at a high rate of speed westbound on CTH G for unknown reasons veered over the centerline into oncoming traffic and had a head-on collision with a maroon-colored 2005 Ford F250 pick-up truck. The 18-year-old male driver was taken to Froedtert Memorial Hospital by Flight For Life with serious head injuries and other internal injuries. The male driver passed away at Froedtert Memorial Hospital on 05-18-09, due to brain injuries resulting from the accident.

- **Date of Accident: 06-14-09**

Location: Oakdale Drive, 100 feet north of Hillview Drive, Town of Vernon

A two person fatal accident involving a motorcycle. A 1997 Harley Davidson lost control in a curve, went on its side, and slid into a 2005 Ford 500, ejecting the two passengers on the motorcycle into a ditch. The driver was a 43-year-old male, and the passenger was a 42-year-old female. Both the operator and the passenger on the motorcycle were pronounced deceased on the scene due to their injuries from the impact with the Ford 500.

- **Date of Accident: 07-20-09**

Location: West Shore Drive, .10 mile south of Becker Lane, Town of Merton

A single-vehicle accident in which a 60-year-old female driver of a 2001 Chevrolet Venture mini-van appeared to have been traveling in a northerly direction, fell asleep at the wheel, went off the road, and struck a tree on the west end of the road, sustaining injuries that caused the loss of her life.

- **Date of Accident: 07-24-09**

Location: Stonebank Road, .1 mile south of Petersen Road, Town of Merton

A single-vehicle accident in which the driver was ejected and pronounced deceased at the scene. The 21-year-old male operator of the 1994 blue Honda Accord drove off the roadway at an extremely high rate of speed, jumped an entire railroad trestle, landing on the opposite bank and rolling several times, subsequently causing the death of the operator. The driver was not wearing his seatbelt. The associated speed with which the vehicle would have been traveling to jump the entire railroad embankment would have had to have been significant and extreme, possibly over 100 miles per hour.

NEXT QUARTERLY MEETING SCHEDULED

The next meeting of the Waukesha County Traffic Safety Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, November 11, 2009, at 2:00 p.m., at the City of Waukesha Police Department.

ADJOURNMENT

Sergeant Nate Clarke, of the Wisconsin State Patrol, made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Sergeant Mark Tushaus, City of Brookfield Police Department. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Gregesich
Waukesha County Sheriff's Department

(MINUTES APPROVED ON 11-11-09)